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**AYR STATEMENT**  
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Thank you to the organizing committee for the chance to say a few words.

The time for denial of the serious adverse health effects of industrial wind turbines on nearby residents globally is well and truly over.

When I first started investigating this problem in July 2010, I had a defining moment while trying to wade through the “spin” of the wind industry sponsored literature reviews purporting to “independently” investigate this issue.

Either there ARE adverse health effects, or there are NOT.

It quickly became clear to me that the health problems are real, serious and at times life threatening. The incidence is rapidly increasing with the deployment of larger turbines closer to homes in many countries. There are now hundreds of case reports which I am personally aware of in Australia, the UK, Europe, Canada, the US, and New Zealand. I have interviewed over 90 people in Australia alone who have been seriously affected – some have left their homes, some their farms as well.

Some have signed confidentiality agreements, in exchange for being bought out, in order to regain their health. Trish Godfrey from Australia and Barb Ashbee from Canada, are two women in this situation, where their stories are now out in the public domain. I know them both, and they have suffered greatly, as have their families. There are many others, as the practice is global. It is my opinion that the ONLY reason for this practice of

secrecy clauses has been to keep these health problems out of the public view, and hence out of the view of public health authorities and researchers, although the industry claims otherwise. This conduct is deliberate in its intent to mislead, and shows corporate behaviour at its worst.

Turbine hosts and their families also get sick. Increasingly they are contacting us for information and advice. Universally they are angry they have been lied to by the developers, in particular about the health problems and the noise impacts. Many of them, too, cannot speak publicly for the same reason.

The health problems have now been well described by numerous concerned Medical Practitioners, who have all done this work unfunded by government or research grants, anywhere in the world. The names of Dr Amanda Harry, Dr David Iser, Dr Nina Pierpont and Professor Robert McMurtry are no doubt familiar to many of you. Each of these doctors has urged further research, which is adequately funded and truly independent. The denigration of these Doctors and others such as Dr Chris Hanning & Dr Michael Nissenbaum, who have all courageously investigated the problems and then publicized them, is typical of the “shoot the messenger” tactics used globally.

The victims, or affected residents, are being subjected to the worst form of victim blaming and vilification from both the wind developers and their financial and ideological supporters. This behaviour has certainly added to the burden of significant and at times life threatening psychiatric illness which these people have endured, in addition to the other serious health problems they have developed.

These people just want to live in their homes, sleep in their beds, and farm their land, as they always have done. Instead they are being driven out of their homes, because of ill health in one or

more family member. There are wind farm refugees everywhere, and their stories are harrowing, and mostly unheard.

However, the tide is turning.

There has been a recent judgement in a Canadian court case where the judges found on the basis of expert evidence presented in that case, that there ARE adverse health effects. The first lawsuit has been lodged following that decision, alleging health impacts. Those judges recommended research.

The Australian Senate inquiry recommended research, and Professor Warwick Anderson, the CEO of Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council, clearly stated that "we do not consider that there are no ill effects" from exposure to operating wind turbines in his evidence to that inquiry.

The Waubra Foundation Board issued an Explicit Cautionary Notice, worded very carefully by a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, in order to make it very clear to EVERYBODY with responsibilities for turbine siting decisions, that they will be held accountable if they put turbines too close to homes. We advocate a precautionary setback of 10km until the research is done, as that is the limit at which symptoms are reliably being reported in association with turbine operation. As people's symptoms always worsen with chronic cumulative exposure, it may be that even 10km is insufficient to protect health.

The combination of fraudulent denial of the existence of serious health problems by wind developers, and willing blindness on the part of bureaucracies and health officials is simply unacceptable, and it now leaves elected officials, bureaucrats, and wind developers open to serious legal consequences.